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JPRS L/10232

31 December 1981

Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 60/81)



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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WORLDWIDE REPORT
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HONG KONG

POLICE SMASH TWO DRUG SYNDICATES, SEIZE OPIUM, HEROIN

Largest Haul in 1981

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 24 Nov 81, p 12

[Text]

A Chiu Chow syndicate involved in the local distribution of opium and heroin was smashed yesterday by officers of the Narcotics Bureau.

A senior member of the syndicate was among six men and a woman arrested following a seizure of 33 lbs of dehydrated prepared opium and more than two lbs of No 3 heroin estimated to be worth at least \$1.28 million on the retail market.

Yesterday's haul was the biggest single seizure made by NB officers so far this year.

A senior bureau officer said last night the dehydrated opium was of "first-class" quality and could have been doubled in weight by re-cooking and mixing.

"From that 66 lbs it could be doubled again before being sold to addicts, who are usually those of the older generation," he said.

The opium seizure will hit the opium market very hard, and prices will soar from today, the officer said.

He said that it was rather unusual for a syndicate to be involved in both opium and heroin.

"Inquiries into the syndicate are still proceeding and NB officers are making raids overnight in various districts in Kowloon.

"We hope to get the syndicate's top officials before they escape from Hongkong to go into hiding," the officer said.

Bureau officers have been investigating the syndicate for some time, but had failed to obtain any concrete evidence.

The tide turned yesterday afternoon when information was received and bureau officers laid an ambush in Hammer Hill Road, Wong Tai Sin.

The waiting officers saw a man holding two travelling bags leaving a taxi, and rushed at him.

The bags were filled with newspapers, but blocks of dehydrated opium were found concealed underneath.

The arrested man, who is in his 50s, was later taken back to his home at Sung Yan Street, Kun Tong where about two pounds of heroin were found in a room of the flat. His mother who was in the premises was also arrested.

Following the seizure, bureau detectives raided various addresses in Kun Tong,

Wong Tai Sin, Shek Kip Mei and Shamshuipo, suspected to be connected with the drug syndicate.

In these raids, detectives made several small drug seizures and arrested another five men, all in their 40s and 50s.

The arrested men and the woman were early this morning helping police with their inquiries and no charge has yet been preferred against them.

Meanwhile, police in Wanchai yesterday arrested seven people, including a teenage girl, after the seizure of 150 grams of No 3 heroin.

Officers from the Dangerous Drug Squad, acting on information, stopped and searched an 18-year-old girl in Lan Fong Road, Causeway Bay, shortly before 2 pm and seized a packet of heroin.

The girl was later taken back to her flat on the 17th floor of 70 Lee Garden Road where another seven packets of heroin were seized.

Her parents, brother and her boyfriend, who were in the flat, were arrested.

The five were last night being detained at Wanchai police station for further inquiries.

Heroin Refinery Found

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 28 Nov 81 p 1

[Text]

Narcotics Bureau detectives yesterday smashed a huge drugs ring following a raid by 40 officers on a building in Tsun Wan.

Thirteen men were arrested in three police swoops, which also netted drugs said to be worth \$1.8 million on the street.

But heroin, worth probably three times as much, was flushed down toilets in the first raid, the bureau claimed.

Officers seized 2.5 kg of suspected No 3 heroin and 2.5 kg of suspected heroin base in the raid on premises in an industrial building in Sha Tsui Road, Tsun Wan.

They said they had also captured the mastermind behind the heroin refinery syndicate.

Police moved in on three men after lying in wait outside the building.

They then dashed upstairs where a further five men refused to let them into a flat. After about 15 minutes police forced open the door.

Police said the five men had flushed between 10 and 15 kg of dangerous drugs down three toilets in the flat as they tried to force their way in.

The other five men were held after police swooped twice more — arresting one man in Shamshuipo and the other four in a Mongkok restaurant.

All 13 were being questioned last night.

Police believed some members of the syndicate escaped their dragnet.

The staff officer in charge of the investigation for the Narcotics Bureau, Mr Man Shing-hon, said the drugs when converted were to supply local markets in East and West Kowloon.

A large quantity of chemicals such as caffeine, hydrochloric acid, sodium carbonate, strychnine and paraffin associated with the manufacturing and packaging of heroin were also seized in the raids.

Mr Man said the refinery was well covered under the guise of a rubber factory and had been converting heroin from morphine for the past six to 12 months.

He said it was the first factory converting morphine to heroin to be smashed by police in 18 months.

CSO: 5320/9106

HONG KONG

BRIEFS

OPIUM TRAFFICKERS CHARGED--A man and two women appeared before Mr D. C. Lee at South Kowloon Court yesterday on charges of possessing about 7 1/2 kilos of opium for unlawful trafficking. The court was told that the drugs were worth about \$330,000. No plea was taken from Kwan Leung (51), Au Siu-chun (46) and Au Lin (42) and they were remanded in jail custody until next Tuesday. They are jointly charged with possessing 3.6 kilos of prepared opium and about 2.8 kilos of prepared opium, which had been dehydrated, in a sixth floor flat at 41 Ha Heung Road, Kowloon, on Saturday. Kwan and Au Siu-chun are additionally charged with possessing about one kilo of prepared opium and about 250 grams of prepared opium, which had been dehydrated, at the ground floor entrance of Kwan Kan Building, 2-8 Temple Street, Yaumati on the same day. Au Siu-chun is further charged with possessing about 35 grams of prepared opium in the same building on the same day. [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 1 Dec 81 p 22]

CSO: 5320/9106

INDIA

BRIEFS

OPIUM ARREST REPORTED--A Bareilly resident hopeful of concluding a barter exchange of opium in return for a head of cattle found himself minus both in police custody when Sultanpuri police arrested him on Thursday after recovering two kilos of opium from his possession. According to police the arrested person Ram Gulam had procured the opium from Bareilly for another person in the Sultanpuri who had offered him cattle in exchange. [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Nov 81 p 10]

CSO: 5300/7013

PAKISTAN

LEGISLATION TO COMBAT DRUG ADDICTION PLANNED

Karachi DAWN in English 7 Dec 81 p 10

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 6--The President's Adviser on Health, Dr. Basharat Jazbi, yesterday said that a comprehensive legislation to meet the problem of drug addiction was on the anvil and will be enforced in the near future.

Addressing the opening session of the four-day symposium on drug demand reduction, organised by the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board here yesterday, Dr. Jazbi asked the participants to formulate a national plan of action and forward it to him for Government action.

The symposium is being attended by Pakistani doctors, drug specialists and experts and representatives of a number of United Nations and international organisations, including the UNFDAC, WHO and ILO.

Earlier, welcoming the Advisor to the symposium, the Chairman, of the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board, Mr. Mairaj Hussain, told the symposium that PNCB's efforts have been successful in bringing down the production of opium in Pakistan from 8,000 metric tons in 1978-79 to 85 tons in 1980-81. But, he said, even this vastly reduced production of opium posed grave danger to the country and the Board was determined to continue its efforts to reduce production.

The Secretary, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Mr. A. Sami Qureshi, also addressed the symposium and said that even though precise statistics about the addiction to drugs in Pakistan were not available the basic parameters were there and the problem had been quite clearly identified. He said, if necessary drug control laws would be reviewed and reinforced by the Government.

The US Ambassador, Mr. Ronald I Spiera who attended the evening session said that America also had a drug problem which was causing anxiety and as such there was a deep understanding of Pakistan endeavours towards achievement of a drug free society. He said Pakistan and America was tackling essentially identical problem. We were working hands in hand to deal with it.

The symposium concludes on Dec 8.

CSO: 5300/4574

PAKISTAN

CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE POPPY CULTIVATION VIEWED

Karachi DAWN in English 7 Dec 81 p 7

[Text] The campaign to contain and reduce poppy cultivation is continuing although in the absence of adequate funds the impact it is having is limited. The latest move in this connection was the grant of 4.2 million dollars by the U.N. Fund for Drug Abuse Control, the money to be used in one of the country's major poppy growing areas, Buner, in Swat, for crop substitution purposes. Because large numbers of families are dependant on poppy growing, and because the economies of entire regions may sometimes be centred on opium, it is inadvisable to begin with very drastic action to curtail cultivation of poppy. In Pakistan, another complication is that almost all the poppy is grown in areas which are considered sensitive by the Government, and where the courses of action available to it are restricted. Crop substitution is, of course, the best possible way of ending poppy cultivation, and it has been used with considerable success in parts of the notorious Golden Triangle. In fact, the much greater importance which Pakistan has acquired in recent years as a narcotics exporting country is partly due to curtailed production in the countries of the Golden Triangle.

What we must assess accurately--and soon--is whether crop substitution can be promoted without resort to extreme coercion. And in making such an assessment it is obvious that the financial resources which can be spared for this purpose, and the realities of narcotics control, must be taken into account. Production of opium and its derivatives has reached a stage which is terrifying, and along with it drug addiction has gone up also: and opium is very different from the much more benign cannabis, for it is a cruel drug which rapidly reduces man to vegetable. It is essential, therefore, that all-out war be declared on it and the efficacy of the instruments which are in use or are to be used be assessed accurately.

Some idea of the success or failure of crop substitution efforts can be had from the Buner area, where such attempts had been made in the past and are probably still on. Facts and figures illustrating the results of these attempts should be collated and published. If it is found that even after several years there has not been any significant decline in poppy cultivation and switch-over to other crops, then methods should be re-examined: sufficient incentives may not have been provided to the farmer to go over to other crops, or perhaps farmers are just not willing to settle for less income even though it may be sufficient for their needs. In this case different means should be employed and attempts made to meet any

reasonable demand made by farmers. The point is that the Government should satisfy itself that steps taken to encourage growing of 'normal' crops have a positive chance of success, and that better irrigation facilities, for instance, are not used merely to grow better poppy. There should also be a limit to the policy of appeasement and to encourage crop substitution, it may be necessary perhaps to introduce some degree of coercion, along with the provision of incentives.

CSO: 5300/4574

PAKISTAN

HEROIN SEIZED FROM EUROPE-BOUND SHIP

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 11 Dec 81 p 9

[Text] The Customs Drug Enforcement Cell made the biggest ever seizure of heroin, worth about Rs. 8.5 crore in foreign currency, after a bid to smuggle it was foiled at the East Wharf yesterday.

The Customs Drug Enforcement Cell, the reports said, had a hot lead minutes before the contraband cargo being shipped for a western Europe destination.

Mr Mobin Ahmed Khan, in coordination with the Deputy Collector of Customs, Mr Amjad Rashid, laid a trap and conducted a successful raid resulting in the seizure of half kilogram of heroin.

Four crew members, Mohammad Aziz Khan, Laskar, Habib-ur Rehman, Laskar, Ahmad Ali and Sher Ali, firemen, alleged to be involved in the racket, were picked up for interrogation.

The contraband cargo was recovered from the tunnel of the deep freezer compartment of the ship.

However, the Customs Drug Enforcement Cell were rummaging through the other parts of the ship, till last night, in a search for more of the contraband cargo. The ship was detained at the wharf.



Customs Drug Enforcement Cell yesterday seized heroin worth Rs. 8.5 crore from a cargo ship. Photo shows Mr Mohammad Akbar, Collector, Customs, Mr Amjad Rashid, Deputy Collector, Mr Malik Mubin Ahmed, Superintendent, Drug Cell and Mr Sibtain, Inspector seen inspecting the heroin.

CSO: 5300/4575

THAILAND

BRIEFS

OPIUM ERADICATION PROGRAM POSTPONED--Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon has postponed the program to wipe out opium cultivation by hilltribe farmers in 10 villages of Chiang Mai Province. The prime minister has cited the reason for the postponement that he wishes to know more details about the program. The poppy substitution plan is under the Thai UN-sponsored crop substitution project. The poppy destroying team, comprised of provincial [word indistinct] and border patrol police, had earlier planned to start their work in the 10 villages last week. The Office of the Narcotics Control Board this year has planned for the first time to take action against hilltribe farmers who grow opium in an attempt to reduce opium cultivation in the Thai side of the Golden Triangle. Officials say that cash crops introduced to these farmers during the past 10 years have yielded good results and enabled them to earn more income than growing opium. [Text] [BK140343 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 14 Dec 81]

AUSTRALIAN ANTIDRUG AID--Australia on 12 November granted Thailand 350,000 baht worth of equipment including a minicomputer to strengthen the Thai antinarcotics forces. The equipment was delivered to Deputy Prime Minister Gen Prachuap Suntharangkun by the Australian ambassador to Thailand during their meeting at Government House. Deputy Prime Minister Gen Prachuap Suntharangkun said the Australian contribution included 14 walkie-talkie sets, 7 sets of radio transmission equipment and the minicomputer. [BK170349 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1100 GMT 13 Nov 81]

HAT YAI DRUGS SEIZURES--Hatyai--Three persons, including a woman, were arrested by narcotics police here yesterday in two separate incidents where police confiscated 74 kilogrammes of cooked opium, 1.3 kilogrammes of "No 999" heroin and 300 grammes of No 4 heroin, worth a total of 2.1 million baht, police said. In the first incident, two suspects each driving a car were arrested when cooked opium worth 1.6 million baht was found in one car. Mada-o Phinwang, 43, from Padang Besai, and Iam Suphatthanachaiphichet, 42, were both stopped at 7.20 a.m. at a police road block. Police, who had been tipped off that the suspects may be carrying drugs, said they found two large parcels which contained 74 kilogrammes of cooked opium in Iam's car. In the second incident, police at noon arrested Mrs Nom Buttaphan, 38, from Village Group Five, Tambon Kuan-Luang, here when she was allegedly found carrying heroin concealed in a big laundry detergent box at Hat Yai airport, police said. Police said they found 1.3 kilogrammes of No 999 heroin and 300 grammes of No 4 heroin worth about 500,000 baht inside the box. [Text] [Bangkok WORLD in English 4 Dec 81 p 3 BK]

NARCOTICS BONFIRE--Nearly 600 kgs of seized narcotics were put to the torch in a big bonfire at the head office of the disaster relief centre on Wiphawadi Rangsit road yesterday. The event, which involved 10 million baht worth of narcotics, was chaired by Deputy Premier Prachuap Suntharangkun and witnessed by senior government officials, the press and the general public. About 270 kgs of the destroyed narcotics was heroin and the rest were morphine, marihuana, kratom leaves and some tablets. This was the fourth time in the past four consecutive years that huge amounts of seized drugs were destroyed by fire. The first three events were in August 1977 (1,291.44 kgs), January 1979 (8,162.552 kgs) and August 1980 (1,179.959 kgs). [BK180301 Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 7 Dec 81 p 1]

FORMER BPP CORPORAL HELD--Police arrested a former border patrol police [BPP] corporal as he was allegedly about to deliver 3.5 kilogrammes of heroin yesterday--the second time he had been held on heroin charges, police said. Pol Cpl Sanguan Panchakhan was arrested when he arrived at Huai Khwang market at about 3 p.m. yesterday. Police said a waiting crime suppression team, tipped off there would be a heroin delivery, found the double lions brand heroin when they searched Sanguan's pickup truck. Police claimed Sanguan admitted smuggling the heroin from Mae Sai District of Chiang Rai for clients in Bangkok. He was detained at the crime suppression division on an initial charge of possessing the drugs with intent to sell. Former Corporal Sanguan, a native of Mae Sai District, was previously arrested on January 9, 1978 when he and two others were allegedly waiting to deliver about 3.5 kg of heroin smuggled from Mae Sai. However, Pol Cpl Sanguan was acquitted by the three courts for lack of evidence, while the other two were sentenced. [Text][Bangkok POST in English 8 Dec 81 p 5 BK]

OPIUM IN UNREGISTERED CAR--A joint customs and police team early yesterday morning arrested a man in the Thon Buri area carrying 16 kilogrammes of raw opium hidden in an unregistered car. The man's brand-new blue Toyota Corolla saloon was believed to have been smuggled into Thailand across the southern border. It carried a fake Samut Sakhon licence plate. The arrest came after customs officials were tipped off that an amount of contraband would be brought to Bangkok from the south. They set up a checkpoint on Ekkachai road yesterday morning. At about 10 a.m. the Toyota, driven by Wasan Sihaphon, approached the check point but turned and sped away when the driver saw the uniformed officers. After a brief chase, Wasan was forced to stop in front of Soi Charoenrat. Searching the car, the officials found 16 kilogrammes of raw opium in the boot. Wasan declined to give a statement to the police. [Text] [Bangkok POST in English 5 Dec 81 p 3 BK]

MARIHUANA PLANTATION DESTROYED--Sakon Nakhon--Police last Saturday [12 December] raided two villages in Khok Sisuphan sub-district and destroyed a large plantation of marihuana. Acting on a tip-off that the marihuana plants were ready for cutting, about 100 policemen led by Pol Lt-Col M.R. Prasansawat Suksawat, the deputy superintendent, went into Ban Klang and Ban Muang Khai of Tambon Dan Thuang-Kham to investigate. The police team found the 100-rai plantation on the edge of a forest about 1 kilometre from the villages. Armed with sickles and knives, the policemen chopped down the plants and then burned them. A police official said the police action had infuriated villagers who put up no resistance, merely watching the bonfire helplessly. The official said villagers there earned their living by planting marihuana and selling it to drug traffickers who also financed the cultivation. [Bangkok POST in English 14 Dec 81 p 2 BK]

HEROIN SMUGGLERS SEIZED--Two Thai men were arrested late Sunday night while allegedly attempting to smuggle over four kilogrammes of No 3 "brown sugar" heroin to West Germany. The two men, Pramot Kaeoprasoet, 32 and Thoedsak Tosaks, 25, refused to make a statement to customs and police officials upon arrest. The officials reported that they found the narcotic drug, neatly packed in 16 plastic bags, hidden in specially-made secret compartments of the suitcases. The drugs weighed a total of 4,190 grammes. [Bangkok POST in English 24 Nov 81 p 5]

DRUG SMUGGLERS NABBED--A taxi driver and a beautician were arrested yesterday while allegedly attempting to smuggle 3 kilogrammes of heroin base out of the country to Tokyo. Aphichat Loet-Usaha, 24, and Miss Somphon Koro, 21, were about to board a Cathay Pacific flight to Tokyo when a Metropolitan Narcotics Unit (MNU) police team reportedly intercepted them and found the drugs neatly hidden in specially-made compartments in the two suitcases which they allegedly were carrying. The two suspects reportedly were with a tour group organised by Rungsap Tour. Aphichat reportedly told police he was hired by a Japanese drugs dealer who paid for Miss Somphon and his airfare plus 21,000 baht pocket money each. Miss Somphon denied any knowledge of the drugs, saying that she accompanied him only because she had been contacted to work in a Tokyo bar. [Bangkok POST in English 13 Dec 81 p 2 BK]

CONVICTED MONK ARRESTED--A convicted drugs trafficker, who became a monk three years ago in an attempt to avoid serving a life sentence, was arrested on Friday by a Bangkok north police team at a temple in Si Samrong District of Sukhothai Province. Deputy commander of the Bangkok North Investigation Bureau, Pol Lt-Col Kittichok Seangnil said that Ong-at Peng Sae Tae or Phikkhu Sompong, had gone to the temple to perform a religious rite. He was disrobed from the monkhood after his arrest, he added. In October 1978 Ong-at was sentenced to life imprisonment in absentia after escaping arrest in a police raid in Samut Prakan. During the raid 92.7 kilograms of heroin, 58.4 kilograms of morphine and 81.2 kilograms of processed opium were seized. [Bangkok POST in English 22 Nov 81 p 3]

THREE LAO ARRESTED--Loei--Three Lao were arrested in Chiang Khan District Friday night after they crossed the border into Thailand with a bag containing 12 kilogrammes of opium and 650 grammes of No 4 heroin, according to Mr Kasem Chaisith, the district officer. The men were arrested by a police team which had been patrolling the border road and Mekong River bank after being informed of the smuggling attempt. At about 7.30 p.m., the three men, one of them pushing a bicycle, were seen coming down the road. They were stopped by the police and a search of a shoulder bag carried by one of them turned out to contain the heroin and opium. The three men said they were Lao and had come from Vientiane with the drugs which they were to deliver to an unidentified Thai merchant in Chiang Khan District. Police have charged the three Lao with possessing narcotic drugs with intent to sell and illegally entering the country. [Bangkok POST in English 29 Nov 81 p 2 BK]

CSO: 5300/4578

BARBADOS

BRIEFS

ANTI-DRUG SQUAD--Barbados now has the machinery to combat large scale drug trafficking. It is the Undercover Drug Squad [UDS]. Acting Commissioner of Police, Orville Durant, yesterday announced the establishment of the UDS and intimated that the squad was necessary because of the highly suspected "large scale drug trafficking" in the island. The police deputy told THE NATION that the undercover cops were all trained by renown American crimebusters, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and since its inception at the beginning of November, had produced "very interesting results." One such crackdown by the undercover police led to the arrest of an American, on Saturday, who was charged with the illegal possession of drugs. Now awaiting an analyst report, police also suspect that the drug contents may consist of hashish. Durant also stated that the special squad duties include the monitoring of schools. Drugs in Barbados, more commonly marijuana, is now into a multi-million dollar business and in recent times, more and more people have been brought before the courts for use and trafficking offences. Increased scrutiny at both sea and airports has resulted in the seizing of hundreds of pounds of marijuana and other drugs worth millions of dollars. At the recently completed October Assizes, a St James man was sent to jail for five years after he was found guilty of importing some \$750,000 of marijuana. Several raids carried out by joint police/Defence Force squads have uncovered hundreds of neatly cultivated plots of marijuana in the remote parts of the country side. [Text] [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 17 Nov 81 p 1]

CSO: 5300/7516

BOLIVIA

CHAPARE COCA CROP AFFECTED BY DISEASE

Cochambamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 17 Nov 18 p 7

[Text] The peasants of Chapare have become concerned about the appearance of a disease affecting coca plants called "estalla," which hinders their growth and causes the leaves to crack.

According to reports from Ministry of Agriculture technicians, the disease has appeared in a number of regions, where the crops have had to be abandoned and in some cases destroyed to prevent the spread of the virus.

It was learned that the situation is forcing producers of coca to use chemical fertilizers, weed killers and fungicides and other high agricultural technology chemical products.

According to the peasants in the region, the name of the disease derives from the verb "estallar" (to break out) because of the resemblance to an explosion of some kind leading to the destruction of an object.

Dozens of peasants in the Mejillones zone and the coastal and other regions have abandoned the cultivation of coca because of the existence of the disease.

Moreover, technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture, the PRODES and other bodies working in the Chapare zone have reported that "estalla" may affect a large percentage of the coca crop in Chapare and may force the peasants to turn to the cultivation of other crops such as papaya, citrus fruits, bananas, yucca, rice, etc.

However they said that total replacement of the coca crop would be difficult for the peasants, because "they have become accustomed to earning the money."

The technicians say that there is a possibility that the peasants could eliminate the disease by their own efforts or by turning to private agronomical technicians, because it is in their interest to improve and "purify" the growing of coca plants.

It was learned unofficially that at the market center in Zinahota last Sunday, coca leaves were being sold at up to 10,000 Bolivian pesos per packet to private persons or merchants engaged in drug traffic, while a very limited quantity of the leaf was being sold at 4,000 Bolivian pesos at the Office for the Supervision and Control of the Marketing of Coca.

5157

CSO: 5400/2049

14

DOMINICA

BRIEFS

ARREST OF RASTAFARIANS--Roseau, Dominica, Friday (CANA)--Dominica police yesterday confirmed they were holding three members of the local Rastafarian community following a raid on their commune just outside the capital, Roseau, on charges of having marijuana in their possession. They said that Desmond Trotter, probably the best known Rastafarian here, and a woman were among the detainees. Trotter became known internationally after he was sentenced to death for murdering an American tourist here in the early 70's. He repeatedly said he was innocent of the crime and following international protests and petitions on his behalf, the death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment until 1979 when it was squashed and he was released. The police said a number of marijuana plants were found inside the hut occupied by the three persons and others were being cultivated nearby. They are due to appear in a Magistrate's Court today to answer the charges. Meanwhile, a 25-year-old Rastafarian was found dead in the hills surrounding the village of Delices earlier this week, after reports from the village said that the man, Avondale Alexander, had gone on a hunger strike. The police said the youth's body was found by a Forest Ranger. In other police news, a 28-year-old St Lucian held in custody by the police here and wanted in his homeland on a number of charges including drug trafficking, escaped from prison last night along with three other Dominicans. Police said that Jean-Marie Benjamin who was fined EC\$500 by a City Magistrate yesterday for possession of a quantity of marijuana, was to be deported for illegal entry into the island. They added that Benjamin, whom they described as 5 feet 10 inches tall, with a scar on the left side of his face and a member of the Rastafarian movement, had managed to escape lawful custody during the early hours of this morning. The police said that the description of the other escaped men would be announced later. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 14 Nov 81 p 3]

CSO: 5300/7516

MEXICO

CONFISCATED DRUGS BEING REMOVED FROM COURT PREMISES

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 3 Nov 81 Sec B p 1

[Text] Yesterday, Fernando Ventura, first secretary of the Second District Federal Court, reported on the removal that is continuing in that entity of all the drugs which have been turned over in the various cases that are being heard in proceedings both with and without arrests.

He noted that some of them were burned several days ago, and that this work is being continued in order to put an end to the entire remains and supplies of drugs, beginning with the cases which have already been tried and are settled.

Envelopes and packages containing marihuana were evident in his office, because the cases associated with cocaine, heroin and opium have been concluded, and the evidence incinerated.

He said that only samples are being stored along with the records, remarking that this is something which must be done so as to end the problem of keeping those amounts of marihuana and other drugs too long in the custody of the court.

He claimed that it was impossible to keep those samples in the court any longer, because problems might arise, which would occur because the proceedings wherein these drugs are involved have been settled.

He said that, this year, action has been initiated in 85 different cases for crimes against health and contraband, and in 118 for the smuggling of laborers abroad; noting that most of these crimes were against health, while those relating to the illegal importing of weapons have declined by a large percentage.

He said that this phenomenon had been noticed the year before last, when there was a large number of cases involving persons attempting to bring weapons and ammunition of various calibers into the interior of the country. Most of them were held by the Customs Guard, because they were detected when the individuals arrived from the United States at the checkpoint on the International Bridge.

2909

CSO: 5330/58

MEXICO

SENTENCES IMPOSED FOR MARIHUANA TRAFFICKING, PRISONER RELEASE

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 25 Nov 81 Sec C p 6

[Text] Yesterday, the third district judge, Ricardo Rodriguez Villarreal, imposed a prison sentence of 7 years and 6 months and a fine of 10,000 pesos upon an individual who was arrested last year by Federal Judicial Police agents with a shipment of marihuana in his possession.

In July of last year, Miguel Angel Rodriguez Torres was captured by Federal Judicial Police forces at a checkpoint that had been set up on the National Highway.

At the beginning of the questioning, this subject told the federal agents that he had purchased the drugs in the town of Matehuala, San Luis Potosi, with the intention of selling them in this town to other persons who were not arrested by the Federal Police because they had managed to escape to the United States.

Miguel Angel Rodriguez Torres was convicted by the federal court for a crime against health in the degrees of marihuana possession and trafficking, and yesterday the pertinent sentence for the commission of the aforementioned crimes was handed down against him.

Moreover, it was announced in the third district court that Manuel Hernandez Garza had also been sentenced, for the commission of the crime of prisoner escape.

The sentence passed against this individual was 5 years and 5 months in prison, which he will serve at the La Loma Prison, where he has been held since 1979, when he allowed the escape of a federal convict from the Reynosa jail.

According to the statements made by Manuel Hernandez to the Federal Public Ministry and the third district court, in August he received an alleged telephone call from the prison director, Jose Taile Loredo, notifying him that he was to allow the release of Juan Antonio Guerra from the jail.

This story was later proven to be false, and it was learned that Manuel Hernandez had received a large sum of money for allowing the inmate Juan Antonio Guerra to escape from the jail.

2909
CSO: 5330/58

PANAMA

BRIEFS

COCAINE TRAFFICKER--Gustavo Adolfo Mesa, a 20-year-old Colombian student, was arrested with approximately 1.5 kilos of cocaine by agents of the Panamanian Finance and Treasury Ministry Narcotics Division, at his arrival at General Omar Torrijos Herrera international airport, aboard flight 112 of SAM airline, from Medellin, Colombia. [Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 28 Oct 81 p 2-A PA]

CSO: 5300/2102

PERU

BRIEFS

COCAINE AT LIMA AIRPORT--Antidrug dogs at the Jorge Chavez international airport in Lima detected yesterday 40 kg of pepper-camouflaged cocaine base in two suitcases carried by Colombians Fernando Micolta Salinas, 30, and William Alfredo Gutierrez Gaitan, 28. [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 15 Nov 81 p A-1 PY]

ILLEGAL COCA PLANTATIONS--The Civil Guard's Intelligence Service have traced more than 55,000 hectares of illegal coca plantations with a production surpassing 60,000 metric tons per year. Drug traffickers operating in the country pay six times more than the value fixed by the ENACO-Peru [National Coca Enterprise]. Illegal plantations were found in the following departments: Ayacucho (8,669 hectares, with a production of 6,976,000 kg); Huanuco (17,000 hectares, with a production of 16,985,000 kg); San Martin (12,153 hectares, with a production of 10,535,000 kg). [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 16 Nov 81 p A-14 PY]

DUTCH DRUG TRAFFICKER--Lima, 21 Nov (TELAM)--Peruvian police have arrested Dutch citizen Ply Antonie Marinus for carrying 500 grams of pure cocaine hydrochloride. On the local market this would be about 20 million soles although abroad its value can increase about 10 times. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2137 GMT 21 Nov 81 PY]

DRUG SEIZURES ESTIMATES--Since 1 January 1981, Civil Guard Intelligence Service (DIRINGC) has seized drugs worth 71 billion soles. It has disrupted 50 drug traffickers' organizations and captured 500 traffickers. [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 14 Nov 81 p A-14 PY]

CSO: 5300/2098

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BRIEFS

MARIJUANA IN MAILBAGS--Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Friday (CANA)--Three mailbags containing \$750000 worth of marijuana were discovered at Piarco International Airport this week by Customs Officers, a spokesman said today. The cured marijuana was found in mailbags destined for Guyana. The bags arrived on a BWIA flight from Kingston, Jamaica, around 11.30 p.m. (0300 hours GMT) on Wednesday. Having discovered a similar find a month go, the Customs Officers called in post office agents to check the bags. It was found that there was no local registration of the "mail" and as a result the bags were opened, according to the spokesman. Recent Customs Officers stepped up surveillance at all ports of entry in a bid to curb smuggling, especially of narcotics and arms and ammunition, into the country. Also on Wednesday night, in a joint exercise with the Coast Guard, Customs Officers intercepted an inter-island schooner, the "Cathy-Ann," and seized a firearm and 100 rounds of ammunition. The captain of the vessel has been charged with failing to declare the firearm and ammunition. [Text]
[Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 14 Nov 81 p 3]

CSO: 5300/7516

EGYPT

OPIMUM DRUG BUST ENDS IN ARREST OF ITALIAN SMUGGLER, DIPLOMAT

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 8 Sep 81 p 10

[Article by Husayn Ghanim: "A Foreign Diplomat and an Italian Run a Narcotics-Smuggling Ring: A Large Shipment of Opium, Worth 1.5 Million Egyptian Pounds, Seized in Cairo Airport"]

[Text] The Public Narcotics [Control] Bureau arrested a foreign diplomat and the owner of a boutique in al-Zamalik, of Italian nationality, who were running a large network which smuggled narcotics into Egypt from abroad. The arrest was made after the two men had taken out of the Cairo Airport customs area four Samsonite suitcases which were filled with approximately 1.5 million Egyptian pounds worth of unprocessed opium meant for delivery to narcotics dealers in al-Batiniyah. The Public Prosecutor's Office ordered that the Italian be jailed and that his vehicle be confiscated. Initial information had indicated the activity of some narcotics smugglers and dealers and the fact that they had made contacts with some of their assistants for the purpose of reaching an agreement concerning the bringing in of large shipments from abroad. Furthermore, the Department of Investigations noted the fact that the owner of a boutique in al-Zamalik, which dealt in imported clothes, had been making frequent trips to al-Batiniyah. Careful surveillance revealed that the man was Antonio (Rishli), 42 years of age, of Italian nationality, and the owner of the Mondo boutique on al-Barazil St. It turned out that he spent his money lavishly during his evening parties with some local narcotics smugglers and dealers in various cabarets and that he owned three cars.

An investigation showed that his lifestyle did not correspond to the income which he earned from the boutique. It was also noted that he traveled abroad once every week and that he made trips to some of the countries which produce narcotics. When he returned he did not carry with him any suitcases, and this aroused suspicion and served to confirm the evidence concerning him. It was also noted that he went back to the Cairo Airport, got in touch with a number of foreign diplomats, and accompanied them while they cleared some of their suitcases through customs. After Maj Gen Sami As'ad, head of the Public Narcotics Control Bureau, had received ample information concerning this matter, he presented it to Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il, the deputy prime minister and minister of the interior. Mr Isma'il then ordered that all of the diplomats seen in the company of this Italian be put under careful surveillance and that the real role which the Italian was undertaking be discovered.

Maj Gen Mamduh Salim Zaki, the bureau's deputy director, Col Muhammad 'Abbas, director of operations, and Col Sayyid Ghayth, chief of the Foreign [Narcotics] Operations Department, made a study of all of the possibilities and recorded all of these meetings which took place. It was confirmed that the Italian was very active, together with some foreign diplomats who provided a cover for his activities, in bringing in narcotics from abroad via Greece.

Surveillance of the Italian's activities recorded the fact that he left the country on the third of this month, and by means of contacts with some secret sources it was possible to learn that he was returning to Egypt yesterday after learning the description of the four suitcases filled with opium.

The stake-out and arrest plan was set up in cooperation with the General Bureau of the Cairo Airport Police after it was provided with radio communications equipment. [The operation was under] the command of Col Ahmad Nida, head of the Airport Narcotics Division, and [others participating in the operation were] Lt Cols Magdi Husayn, 'Imad Rashid, Shafiq al-'Ashari, Muhammad al-Imam, Mahmud 'Abd al-Rashid, Ahmad Samak, Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab, and 'Atif Bakr. The Italian was seen leaving the plane and carrying a small suitcase, and he had left the four Samsonite suitcases containing the opium among the various suitcases of the passengers. The suitcases were then put in the baggage storage room belonging to the airline. After that the Italian met one of the foreign diplomats who was waiting for him outside of the airport. They went together to the airline office where the diplomat asked for the four suitcases, saying that they were his suitcases and that they had arrived late. After the diplomat received the suitcases and left the customs area, where he made use of his status of diplomatic immunity, he and the Italian then got in a car outside the airport, the license plate of which indicated that it belonged to a private car owner from Gizah and the number of which was 48445. There the two of them were arrested, the four suitcases were seized, and when the car was searched the police discovered papers relating to the shipment from Greece of the suitcases which had been seized and they also found other papers concerning the foreign diplomat. It turned out that the suitcases contained 150 packages of unprocessed opium worth 1.5 million Egyptian pounds.

The investigation of the case was taken over by Salah Hilal, counselor in the Narcotics Division, under the supervision of Public Justice and Attorney Muhammad Muhammad Yahya, chief of the Narcotics Division. It was decided to jail the Italian and confiscate the vehicle.

9468
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EGYPT

HASHISH OPERATION LEADS TO ARREST OF NARCOTICS KING

Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 23 Sep 81 pp 52-53

[Article by Munir al-Masiri: "Finally the Downfall of the Narcotics Kings!: The Secret of the 'al-Ma'diyah' and 'al-Hammam' Operation, and the Smuggler Called the 'Hairdresser'"]

[Text] The narcotics kings of Alexandria have met their downfall. The Narcotics Control Police have managed to discover the most modern methods of narcotics smuggling which the smugglers have been utilizing.

It was not an easy operation to bring about the downfall of these narcotics kings. In fact it was like the adventure stories you see in the movies. The world of narcotics is a world which is surrounded by obscurity and enveloped in secrecy. The great narcotics kings administer their "operation" from afar so that they do not fall under suspicion. But how did these narcotics kings get caught?

AKHIR SA'AH is bringing you this exclusive story concerning the downfall of the biggest dealers in poison in Alexandria, and the story is being presented to you both in words and in pictures. Suddenly--that is, since the beginning of the summer and up till last week--the northern coastline from Rashid all the way to al-Salum had been witnessing large-scale activity on the part of big-time narcotics smugglers to swamp the market with narcotics in various locations along the coast. From these locations they made several attempts to bring narcotics into some of the summer resort beaches in al-'Ajami in order to avoid the surveillance of the Frontier Corps forces. During these attempts some of the alleged smugglers were captured and 20 tons of narcotics, worth 30 million Egyptian pounds, were seized. Last week the smugglers resorted to a new method of smuggling. They undertook to bring in 50 tons of hashish in four different locations at the same time in order to keep the forces of the Frontier Corps busy in some places. These places were the coastline at Abu Qir and al-Salum, where they attempted to bring in 1 ton of narcotics. They attempted to do this in order to bring in 25 tons of narcotics, all at once, both at al-Hammam, near the province of Matruh, and in the al-Ma'diyah area, near Rashid, while the police were busy seizing narcotics in the other areas. This was the new method resorted to by the smugglers in order to avoid being surprised by the naval forces since it is difficult to smuggle narcotics into the country via the sea and right before the Greater Bairam Feast. Information was collected by Brig Gen Wahbi Habib, chief of the Frontier Corps Intelligence Division, and he passed it on to Maj Gen 'Ali Faruq [illegible], member of the General Staff and commander of the [Frontier Corps]

forces. A careful plan was then begun to shut the doors of Egypt's coastline to these smugglers. Maj Gen Samih al-Tihami undertook the preparation of the plan in cooperation with the Headquarters Command of the [Frontier Corps] forces. The objective of the plan was to close off the desert roads and prepare ambushes along them in order to make it possible to capture the smugglers if they turned out to be successful in any of their attempts and managed to penetrate, with their narcotics, from the coastline to the desert roads. Then large reserve forces were sent out to keep a watch on all the desert roads.

At the same time Brig Ben Taha Muhammad 'Awad and Col 'Abd al-Hamid Sanjar, the chief of the Frontier Corps Intelligence Division in Alexandria, began to intensify surveillance along the coastline and to utilize a large number of sea launches for 24-hour patrols in order to keep track of any activities engaged in by the smugglers along the coastline.

A Huge Quantity of Narcotics

When the smugglers, in their small motorboats from Turkey, began to arrive in the Abu Qir coastal area, the Frontier Corps was not fooled and the other Frontier Corps forces and ambushes remained in their locations all along the coastline. The second attempt was made a few hours later on the coastline at al-Salum, near the Egyptian-Libyan border. The [Frontier Corps] forces hastened to thwart these attempts and capture the narcotics which the smugglers had dumped overboard before fleeing.

The surveillance continued, and the plan which had been set up was successful. A few hours later the smugglers began to bring in a very large quantity of narcotics--amounting to 25 tons--on [each of] two smuggling boats in the al-Ma'diyah area, near Rashid, and in the al-Hammam area, near Matruh. Then there occurred a battle in both of these areas between the coastal [patrol] launches and the Turkish smugglers which lasted 4 hours and in which machineguns were used. After the battle the smugglers were forced to dump their load of narcotics overboard and flee.

Inside the Smugglers' World

The world of the narcotics trade is an empire which exists in its own right!

The job of the smuggler kings is to bring narcotics in from abroad, to keep it concealed--that is, in secret hideouts and storage places near desert roads--and to control this illicit trade throughout all of the country's provinces. The strange thing is that in the course of all of this they are quite far removed from all of these operations. They engage in the operations only through their men and their agents. They are careful never to be where the narcotics is because they know very well that this is the only thing which would prove their guilt in a court of law! Also, the Narcotics Control Police are not in a position to reach them. The efforts of the police have always been concentrated on seizing the narcotics during attempts to smuggle it into the country or to arrest the middlemen who are subordinate to the great narcotics kings in this world of evil. The big-time smugglers are always linked to the coastline! A smuggler has to own some land along the coastline in order to be able to receive

the narcotics when it is being brought in to shore! Furthermore, they have unlimited amounts of money. In fact they have millions [of Egyptian pounds]! A single narcotics deal, of the type which usually takes place more than once each month, enables them to earn more than 1.5 million Egyptian pounds!!

An Agent Sent to the Hashish Producers

The smuggling operations always begin with the agent whom the big man or smuggler sends to the areas where the narcotics is grown, especially Lebanon. The agent is the one who negotiates with the hashish growers and producers! As for the smuggler, he never shows his face during all of these operations. Then the deal, which they call the "affair" [al-maslahah], is concluded and agreement is reached concerning all of the details of the operation and the places where the narcotics will be smuggled in along the coastline. The agent then pays a large part of the price of the deal. If the smuggling operation is successful he will pay the remainder of the price. But if the operation fails then each party contents itself with the loss which it has suffered. This is the custom in this illicit trade.

The first preparation concerning the narcotics which will be smuggled is the procurement of sets of rubber automobile innertubes. The bags of hashish are put inside the rubber tubes in accordance with their weight. Either each bag weighs 1 kilogram or each pair of bags together weighs this same amount. This happens after each bag is wrapped up in cloth and nylon bags in order to make them waterproof. After "stuffing" the inside of the tire, they firmly fasten the tire around the hashish packages. Then they get a very long rope. They make "knots" in this rope at particular intervals which include more than one tire. Then they rent a small motorboat or launch or other types of small boats from Turkey where the Turkish crews of these motorboats are specialists in smuggling operations. These crews do not receive their wages unless the operation succeeds. The journey with the shipment of narcotics starts out from Lebanon and the motorboat crew usually is accompanied by the Egyptian smuggler's agent so that he can guide them to the particular place along the northern coastline of Egypt where the smuggler's men are waiting for them in order to receive the shipment.

The smuggling boat quietly penetrates Egypt's territorial waters and continues until it reaches a place opposite the shoreline. At a given location, and during the quiet of the night, light signals are sent out from the boat and these signals are answered by the same light signals from shore. Then there is rapid communication by radio between the men on shore and those in the boat. This means that the way is clear. Then the members of the boat crew throw overboard the rope with its tires, which they call "parcels" [turud], in clockwise fashion. One of the crew members then takes hold of one of the ends of the rope, jumps in the water, and swims to shore in order to give the end of the rope to the smugglers who are on shore. This is the end of the job of the boat crew. The smuggler's agent then goes on shore while the boat withdraws and goes back where it came from.

Storage Places in the Desert!

Usually the big-time smuggler follows these operations from afar, and does not come close at all! His men bring the narcotics out of the sea for him while he

sits in another place which is safe. "Pulling the rope" in order to bring in the narcotics parcels from the sea requires the efforts of between 20 and 35 men! Then the narcotics parcels are loaded on trucks which go to a particular point where they stop. Usually this point is near al-'Ajami or not very far from it. A privately-owned car which carries several people waits for the shipment. These people then take over the driving of the truck along with its shipment after the truck's driver gets out and is sent back. Or else the truck goes directly to the desert roads if the narcotics was smuggled into the northern coastline between Alexandria and Matruh or al-Salum. In both cases the truck goes to the desert roads where the narcotics is put in storage and hiding places. The desert storage places usually are not specially-constructed hiding places. Usually they amount to a large hole in the sand in which the narcotics is buried, and their location is indicated by natural markings such as a stone or a few bushes growing in the desert. This makes it impossible for anyone but the person who knows about them to find them!

At this time the agent sent by the smuggler is on his way back to see him in order to inform him of the success of the operation and the safe arrival of the "affair!"

Then the smugglers, through their men, begin to conclude deals with the large-scale wholesale dealers throughout Egypt. What they then do is to put small quantities of narcotics in the marketplace, rather than glutting the market all at once, in order to keep the price high!

During the last 3 months, and for the first time, six of the largest narcotics smugglers have met their downfall! One of these smuggler kings was Sa'd Ahmad Muhammad, 45 years of age. But his name as such did not mean anything in this strange world of narcotics smuggling. He is known to all of the narcotics producers and growers in Lebanon and in other countries from which narcotics is smuggled. He began life as a carpenter, and then he opened up a women's beauty shop in the al-Muntazah area. It was at this time that he began to deal in the narcotics trade, and with time his activities expanded. Within 15 years he became one of the largest narcotics smugglers in Egypt. In other words he became one of the narcotics kings!

The smuggler who was formerly a hairdresser was careful to avoid being detected by the Narcotics Control Police from either the Public Bureau or the Narcotics Bureau in Alexandria. He always switched his privately-owned cars so that nobody would be able to track him down. When he came to the summer resort, he had already sold his own car and bought a Mercedes in its place. He then outfitted it with the most modern of radio communications equipment which operated at a distance of 70 miles!! Then he settled into a villa which he owned at Ard Blis in al-'Ajami.

However, the eyes of the men from the Narcotics Control Bureau in Alexandria had been following him without his knowing it! The police officers and authorities had already had information to the effect that a large shipment of narcotics was about to be smuggled in at al-'Ajami! [They also knew] that he used a modern piece of radio equipment to guide the smuggling boats, operating for his benefit,

before they entered Egypt's territorial waters! He was on the point of concluding a large deal. He especially felt this way because the agent whom he had sent to the narcotics growers and producers in Lebanon had returned and shown him samples of the highest grades of narcotics there in order to obtain his agreement to buy the sorts of narcotics which he was choosing. This was one of the few times when it was possible for narcotics to be in the presence of one of these narcotics kings. The quantity of narcotics, as such, is very small and amounts to no more than one bag! However, this quantity constitutes samples of the types of narcotics which he contracts to buy. Then there took place the ambush operation in which the Public Narcotics Bureau branch participated along with the Narcotics Bureau of the police of the province of Alexandria, and the time was set to make a raid on the hairdresser. This was when the narcotics king met his downfall. He had no choice but simply to confess. His radio car was discovered in front of his villa, and they also found some strips of (Matorex) narcotic tablets which he was also in the process of contracting to buy.

The downfall of narcotics kings does not mean that their empire is destroyed. When one of them falls, their place is taken by another person who becomes a narcotics king or emperor as long as there are always people who are drug addicts and are always begging and searching for narcotics!



[Photo caption] Ahmad Muhammad the Hairdresser, a narcotics king

9468
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IRAN

BRIEFS

OPIUM SEIZURE IN MASHHAD--During the past 24 hours Mashhad police have seized 36 grams of heroin and 68 grams of opium from a number of people. Similarly, the Mashhad Islamic Revolution Guards Corps have seized 1.200 kg of opium from two persons. [GF061905 Mashhad Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 6 Dec 81]

OPIUM SEIZURE IN SHIRAZ--The Shiraz antidrug squad has seized 2.150 kg of opium from two persons. [GF061905 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 6 Dec 81]

MASHHAD HEROIN SEIZURE--The Mashhad Islamic Revolution Guard Corps has seized 3.4 kg of heroin and 7 kg of opium from a number of persons. [GF081752 Mashhad Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 8 Dec 81]

MASHHAD OPIUM SEIZURE--The Mashhad antidrug squad has seized 100 grams of heroin and 21.5 kg of opium from a number of persons. [GF100452 Mashhad Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 9 Dec 81]

POPPY CULTIVATION BANNED--The Firuzabad Islamic Revolution Court has banned the cultivation of poppies and has announced that those attempting to cultivate poppy will face trial and their land will be confiscated. [GF151710 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 15 Dec 81]

KHORASAN DRUG DISCOVERIES--The Abkuh Revolution Guards have seized 7 kg of opium from three residents of Torbat Heydariyeh. They have also confiscated 300 grams of opium and 557,000 rials from a woman. The same guards have also discovered a total of 200 grams of heroin in the possession of two individuals. A group of Torbat Fam Revolution Guards have discovered 310 grams of heroin and 75 grams of opium in the possession of a number of individuals. [GF210719 Mashhad Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 20 Dec 81]

DRUGS CONFISCATED IN SHIRAZ--Shiraz police personnel in the past week have arrested a number of thieves, discovered stolen goods and destroyed six narcotics hands distributing drugs in Fars Province. One of the gangs has repeatedly imported large quantities of heroin from Baluchestan to Shiraz. One and 1/2 kg of heroin powder have been confiscated. [GF210719 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 20 Dec 81]

INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Tehran, 20 Dec (PARS News Agency)--Members of an international drug trafficking gang have been arrested by the anti-narcotics squad of Shiraz, Fars Province, it was reported on Saturday. One and a half kilo of heroin, some opium and other types of narcotics, and about 10,000 U.S. dollars cash which had been cleverly false bottomed in their Paykan car have been discovered with them. The same report indicated that the gang was led by a person named Rahmatollah (Naruie), fluent in five languages. [Text] [GF210719 Tehran PARS in English 1450 GMT 20 Dec 81]

DRUGS SEIZED IN SHIRAZ--The Shiraz Islamic Revolution Guards have seized 2 kg of opium, hashish and heroin and have arrested 16 persons in this connection. [GF161627 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 16 Dec 81]

OPIUM SEIZED IN MASHHAD--The Mashhad antidrug squad has seized 700 grams of opium and 295 grams of heroin from two persons. [Mashhad Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 16 Dec 81 GF]

SHIRAZ DRUG SEIZURE--A drug distributor has been recognized and arrested. Some 2.015 kg of rolled opium was seized from his house. [Text] [GF211926 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 21 Dec 81]

CSO: 5300/5336

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE ADOPTS PROGRAM AGAINST NARCOTICS

Luxemburg LUXEMBURGER WORT in French 23 Nov 81 p 3

[Article: "The Council of Europe Strengthens Fights Against Drugs"]

[Text] At the end of a ministerial conference on the problems of drugs, the ministers of the 12 member states of the Council of Europe committed themselves, as we have already announced, to support increased cooperation in the fight against the abuse of and illegal traffic in narcotics and to promote the treatment and social reintegration of drug addicts.

The conference, which was held in Strasburg on 12 and 13 November 1981, was chaired by Mrs Nicole Questiaux, French minister of national solidarity, and by Mr Joseph Franceschi, secretary of state to the minister of national solidarity.

Four issues were broached at the meeting, specifically: the evolution of drug abuse in Europe, international cooperation in the repression of illegal trafficking, the taking charge of serious drug addicts, and the abuse of mind altering medications.

The ministers expressed their anxiety in the face of growing drug abuse, specifically of heroin and cocaine. They noted that amphetamines and solvents represent a growing problem in certain countries, the solvents presenting a real danger for thousands of increasingly younger high school students. The conference also stressed its concern in the face of a broadening of the use of narcotics to new layers of the population, as the proportion of female drug addicts, for example, has substantially increased. In this context, the ministers stressed the very important role of prevention.

As far as marijuana is concerned, following a broad discussion the ministers reaffirmed their opposition to all attempts to legalize marijuana other than for therapeutic or research purposes. However, the ministers decided to establish an exchange of information on their practice with regard to the repression of the use of marijuana. When all is said and done, this attitude indicates a new and more subtle approach to a question which remains at the center of the concerns of the various states.

In order to fight the illegal traffic in narcotics, the ministers want to strengthen international cooperation through existing agreements.

As to the taking charge of the heavy drug addicts, the ministers stressed the need for a particularly motivated personnel, with appropriate training and able to receive assistance from professionals in the various services having experience in this field.

According to the ministers, particular attention should be given to specific comparison and evaluation of existing treatment programs.

As far as the mind altering medications are concerned, the ministers have noted the increasing concern of certain member states with regard to the abuse and the inappropriate use of these medications. Action to control the supply and demand should involve close cooperation between the public authorities and doctors, pharmacists and the pharmaceutical industries.

Finally, the ministers adopted an action program for 1982 and 1983 directed toward the following points:

- intensified European cooperation with regard to the fight against illegal trafficking;
- problems related to the suppression of drug use;
- problems related to the detention of drug addicts;
- taking charge of serious drug addicts and problems related to those involved in treatment as well as to the social rehabilitation services;
- balance between supply and demand of legal opiates;
- exchange of information on research in Europe;
- control of substances leading to the use of drugs;
- development of national administrative control systems to evaluate the social and public health problems in the area of drug abuse.

The text of the final declaration (Reference PPCM(81)22) is available in French and in English upon request from the press services of the Council of Europe, Post Office Box 431 R6, 67006 Strasbourg-Cedex, France.

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CYPRUS

BRIEFS

CYPRUS BATTLES NARCOTICS--The use of Cyprus as a centre of international smuggling gangs for narcotics and other illegal trafficking is causing concern to the Cyprus police. This is stated in the annual Police Report by Police Chief Mr Savvas Antoniou who says: "The data and information available to the police do not justify concern about widespread use of narcotics in Cyprus. Cases involving mainly young people and aliens come to light from time to time but the measures being taken by the police are a strong restrictin factor. "Concern, however, is caused by the channelling of narcotics to European countries from the Middle East and Turkey, through Cyprus, and the use of the island as a centre of international smuggling gangs (narcotics and other illegal trafficking). In cooperation with INTERPOL and other national police forces, the Cyprus police are striving to locate and neutralise such gangs, says the report which adds that police success in this field is significant and is internationally acknowledged. [Nicosia CYPRUS MAIL in English 2 Dec 81 p 1]

CSO: 5300/5330

SWEDEN

BRIEFS

DOGS' ENFORCEMENT CONTRIBUTION EXPLAINED--Customs' narcotics dogs sniff narcotics that are worth much more than the price of the dogs. During only one week in August this result was obtained, states an article in the ALKOHOL OCH NARCOTIKA magazine that is published by the Central Federation for Alcohol and Narcotics Information. This is the week of 24 to 30 August. The largest confiscation was made that week in a boat in the Norrkoping harbor where Customs officers found narcotics worth 5 million kroner. Each dog costs the Customs Office 55,000 kroner. The dogs can be used effectively for about 7 years. The author of the article, Nils Gardegard, who recorded the activities of the 22 dogs during this week in August, thinks that his compilation demonstrates that increased coverage at the borders would make drug trafficking more difficult. He further points out that despite the dogs' proven effectiveness, the Customs Office gets one new dog a year at the most. The police are deliberating whether the number of dogs can be reduced. [Text] [Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 5 Nov 81 p 14] 9583

INDIAN GANG SMUGGLED CANNABIS--The leader of the Indian dope ring that was caught in groups at Arlanda in September, whereby the so-called smuggling of people via Sweden to West Europe also was disclosed, was captured on a street in Uppsala on Wednesday. The man who had been sought during his absence and is considered the organizer of the smuggling--25 kilos of cannabis were confiscated--is now being interrogated by personnel from the National Criminal Police. The smuggling of people and narcotics from India aroused great attention after it was disclosed that a systematic smuggling of Indians was taking place via Polish flights to Arlanda. Many of those arrested said that they had paid large sums of money to agents who were collaborating with the tour guides of the flights. One of those guides has been sentenced to one month in jail while the others have been sent back home. During the tightened control at Arlanda, a number of Indian couriers with prepared suitcases were discovered. Nearly 25 kilos of cannabis were found in the suitcases. During the interrogations it was disclosed that an Indian living in Uppsala was to be the organizer and receiver of the shipments. The man, who has lived in Sweden for a long time, married a Swedish woman in June. Three days after the wedding he returned to his homeland. The National Criminal Police inquired about the man via Interpol, and one week ago it was known that he was on his way to Sweden. He was arrested while on his way to see his wife. He claimed surprise at the arrest. Eleven members of the dope ring are under arrest on suspicion of having committed a serious narcotics offense and an attempt of serious smuggling of merchandise. [Text] [Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 5 Nov 81 p 14] 9583

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